 **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

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Parish Priest: Fr. Vittorio Ricciardi

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**ON BEHALF OF OUR PARISH**

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

In this Christmastide, the sacrament of Reconciliation will continue every Saturday at 10.30 am in preparation for all the other feast of Christmas.

This year, Fr Vittorio will be available for the individual confessions also by appointment, but every Saturday will be dedicated to the confessions. There will be **no mass** **anymore** **on Saturday.**

**GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING OUR MASSES**

The restrictions relating to Church gatherings as they currently affect us are:

1. The numbers who can attend Mass in our Church are now 100. This is based on the Government’s formula of one person for every four-square metres of floor space.
2. Masks are **NOT** required to be worn in Church (if social distancing can be observed).
3. Social distancing (1.5 m separation) must be observed during movement into and seating in the Church and our pews have been marked accordingly to assist.
4. Attendance/contact rolls must be maintained as is presently the case.
5. We have, as many parishioners now attending Mass know, continued to have a "Duty Officer" in the Narthex to take bookings and record attendees details as required. This has been done to avoid bottlenecks on entry to the Church (which would occur if we were to leave parishioners to complete the roll themselves or we would have to have multiple rolls).
6. Our attendances are increasing and at Christmas we anticipate a surge in numbers which will mean it is important that Parishioners book for Mass (ring 95983979) to guarantee that they have a seat at the Mass of their choice. Just turning up means you could be turned away if the nominated Church capacity of 100 has been reached.

Collection bowls are located in the main aisle for the Thanksgiving collection and the Presbytery collection. Thank you to all who have helped financially over this difficult year.

**MASS TIMES**

We have now resumed all our weekday Masses (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am, excluding Saturday morning) together with Masses on Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 9am and 10:30am. In this Christmastide Masses will be as follows:

**Saturday 26 December 6:00pm Mass Holy Family (to book call 95983979)**

**Sunday 27 December 9:00am Mass Holy Family (to book call 95983979)**

**Sunday 27 December 10:30am Mass Holy Family (to book call 95983979)**

**Monday 28 December 9:00am Mass Holy Innocents (to book call 95983979)**

**Tuesday 29 December 9:00am Mass 5th day of Octave Nativ. (to book call 95983979)**

**Wednesday 30 December 9:00am Mass 6th day of Octave Nativ. (to book call 95983979)**

**Thursday 31 December 9.00am Mass 7th day of Octave Nativ. (to book call 95983979)**

**Friday 1 January 9:00am Mass of New Year, Mary Holy Mother of God**

 **(to book call 95983979)**

**Saturday 2 January 6:00pm Mass Epiphany (to book call 95983979)**

**Sunday 3 January 9:00am Mass Epiphany (to book call 95983979)**

**Sunday 3 January 10:30am Mass Epiphany (to book call 95983979)**

All Sunday Masses will still continue to be broadcast on Zoom (login via the Parish website on [www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast](http://www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast)), until further notice. Weekday Masses will continue as normal **without Zoom.**

Follow the link on our Parish website for the liturgy and songs, including a copy of this bulletin.

All information about our Parish is on our website [www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast](http://www.cam.org.au/hamptoneast)

 **CONTACT TRACING**

In order to help reduce the clerical workload on the Parish the Archdiocese has helped in facilitating the introduction of a system for people who have so called “smart phones”. The system has been referred to as a “QR code for contact tracing” system. The “new system” would allow Parishioners with “smart phones to scan a code on entering the Church allowing this parishioner to enter their details (Christian Name, Surname, email address and Phone Number). While this system could perhaps reduce some of the clerical workload of the Parish, the current manual system would still have to be run in parallel for those without smart phones and bookings would still be recorded manually. The Parish will investigate this system after Christmas.

 **OFFICERS AT MASS**

With the Covid restrictions affecting our Masses our rosters with nominated readers, eucharistic ministers, those carrying up the gifts, collections etc have not operated as before. With things returning to some normality we hope to reintroduce at least some of these responsibilities and parishioners who would like to become involved should advise Father Vittorio.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR VITTORIO**

My dear brothers and sisters,

Once again, HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all of you.

Many times, I said that to celebrate Christmas is always a miracle. In many countries, Christmas Celebration is not possible, especially in this time of Corona virus. This 2020 has been marked by the sufferings, which God has allowed in the midst of humanity. Also, for me it has been a time of purification: I have been operated and now I realized that without him there is no joy of living. I am not indispensable. The prophet Isaiah says that the works of men without God are only dirty clothes.

However, **a child is born for us** and our **God-is-with-us** because he wants to meet us **personally** and not generically. The gospel of Zacchaeus is the perfect example in which Christ calls him by name, and he calls each one of us today by name. He wants to establish personally with us a covenant of Love. If we do not meet him in our hearts, we will never meet him in the sacraments.

As I repeat many times, every year there is a tension, struggle in approaching Christmas, but at the end God will win our difficulties with his **simplicity,** the same simplicity of a child, who is born for us. Maybe also this year the great gift of God for us could be his simplicity.

I do not have words to thank you for your continuous generosity expressed during this year. Fr Crispin always said that these people love us too much. It is true.

THANK YOU and MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!!

MAY YOU HAVE A HOLY AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS.

**Thanksgiving Collection Weekend: 20/12/2020 – $527.00**

**Loose Money: 20/12/2020 – $160.75**

**Once again thank you for your generosity. My dear Parishioner, You are fantastic!!**

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Christian James; Filippo and Sara, Joe Harb, Sophia, Daniel Rivalland, Georgette Kheir, Christine Banerjee, Ettore Poletta, Francesco Paolo Ricciardi, Gemma Foster, Victoria Foster; Millie D’Alton, Claire Posten, James Morrison, Catalina Morrison,; Rosa Maria Santos,Ben, Mary Muscat, Patrick Lakagreagrow, Brian Tierney, , Carmel Kanci, Jo Arena, Pam Montgomery, Helen Mille; Jason Denis; Mary Westhead; Rosa Nistico, Margaret Denis; Arthur Astarlis, , Lourenca Fernandes, Prithie Pereira, Madison Kelly, Pat Flarve.

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Mickey Mascarenhas**;** Vincent & Tina Giglio; Louisette Harris; Connie Kilpatrick, Nelson Trapani; Jim Walsh; Miriam Proctor; Elva Ebdon, Vince Giglio, John Rivalland,Douglas Gonsalves, Charlotte Godfrey, Linda D’Souza; Felix Lobo, Margaret Herbstreit; Trevor Anthony Fernandez,Pauline Burke, Sandra Highland, Rudolph D’Souza, Michelle Fowler, Sam Molino, Margherita M. La Macchia, Joan Elliot, Archimede Camba, Denzel D’Souza, Melissa D’Souza John Noal, Lorraine Thompson, Peg Smith, Gladys DeRosario, Molly Wintle, Florencio David Sr, Kathy Taranto, Maureen Collins, John Palamara, May Ray, Milan Lozo, Albert & Hillary D’Souza; Shannon Baker; Margaret Dowsey, Janine Capiron; George Tickner; Jack Foley; Marie Rivalland; Sheila McKenna; Peter Dunne; Tony Molloy; Dulcie Jopling; Gerard Bourke, Alfred Foster, Joan Mealing; Judith Buckley; Genevieve Rodrigues Jean Allday; Gloria James; Earnie Breznik; Margaret Daveron; Patrick & Maurice Kelly; Edward Majda; Elizabeth Mary McKay; John H. Moloney; +Fr. Frank Maher; +Fr. Victor Crennan.